

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: February 25, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Special Needs Child/Adoption Program

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	Crosby	Whiddon	CF	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

Section 409.166, F.S., includes a definition of a “special needs child” as used in the subsidized adoption program. Senate Bill 842 amends this term by replacing the term “mentally retarded” with “developmentally disabled” and adding those who are significantly developmentally delayed due to a mother’s substance abuse during the pregnancy.

This bill amends section 409.166, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Currently, children who are 8 years of age or older, mentally retarded, physically or emotionally handicapped, of black or racially mixed parentage, or a child of any age who is also a member of a sibling group are included under the definition of a “special needs” child. These children qualify for a subsidy.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Senate Bill 842 amends the term “special needs” child by replacing the term “mentally retarded” with “developmentally disabled” and by adding a new group, those who are significantly developmentally delayed due to a mother’s substance abuse during the pregnancy. Although these children have always been considered special needs children under the current definition, this change clarifies, but does not add, a new eligibility group.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Children who are significantly developmentally delayed due to a mother's substance abuse during the pregnancy have always been considered special needs children under the current definition. This proposed change provides clarification but does not add a new eligibility group.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

